

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:37 p.m. at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Executive Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; Steve Grossman, national chairman, Democratic National Committee; Alan D. Solomont, national finance chair, Democratic National Committee; Mayor Dennis Archer of Detroit, MI; and Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea of Romania.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Colombian Narcotics Traffickers**

*August 12, 1997*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my report of October 21, 1996, concerning the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

1. On October 21, 1995, I signed Executive Order 12978, "Blocking Assets and Prohibiting Transactions with Significant Narcotics Traffickers" (the "Order") (60 *Fed. Reg.* 54579, October 24, 1995). The Order blocks all property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of four significant foreign narcotics traffickers, one of whom is now deceased, who were principals in the so-called Cali drug cartel centered in Colombia. These persons are listed in the Annex to the Order. The Order also blocks the property and interests in property of foreign persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, (a) to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia or (b) to materially assist in or provide financial or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the narcotics trafficking activities of persons designated in or pursuant to the Order. In addition the Order blocks all property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of persons determined by the Secretary of the

Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, persons designated in or pursuant to the Order (collectively "Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers" or SDNTs).

The Order further prohibits any transaction or dealing by a United States person or within the United States in property or interests in property of SDNTs, and any transaction that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate, the prohibitions contained in the Order.

Designations of foreign persons blocked pursuant to the Order are effective upon the date of determination by the Director of the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) acting under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Treasury. Public notice of blocking is effective upon the date of filing with the *Federal Register*, or upon prior actual notice.

2. On October 24, 1995, the Department of the Treasury issued a notice containing 76 additional names of persons determined to meet the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12978 (60 *Fed. Reg.* 54582-84, October 24, 1995).

The Department of the Treasury issued another notice adding the names of one additional entity and three additional individuals, as well as expanded information regarding addresses and pseudonyms, to the list of SDNTs on November 29, 1995 (60 *Fed. Reg.* 61288-89).

On March 8, 1996, OFAC published a notice in the *Federal Register* adding the names of 138 additional individuals and 60 entities designated pursuant to the Order, and revising information for 8 individuals on the list of blocked persons contained in the notices published on November 29, 1995, and October 24, 1995 (61 *Fed. Reg.* 9523-28).

3. On January 21, 1997, OFAC published a notice in the *Federal Register* adding the names of 57 individuals and 21 entities designated pursuant to the Order, and revising information for 58 individuals and 1 entity (62 *Fed. Reg.* 2903-09). In addition, the name of one individual specially designated narcotics trafficker was removed from the list. These changes were effective January 15,

1997. A copy of the notice is attached to this report.

These 78 new names brought the total list of SDNTs to 359. Each of the 78 newly designated entities and individuals has been determined to be owned or controlled or to act for or on behalf of the Cali cartel's Helmer "Pacho" Herrera Buitrago organization. The newly identified SDNTs include several large poultry processing plants and farms, investment and import/export firms, real estate businesses, a consulting firm, a lumber distributor, and a construction company, all located in Colombia.

The additional name and address information includes one previously designated company controlled by the Herrera Buitrago family and 58 previously designated individuals from either the Herrera Buitrago or the Rodriguez Orejuela organizations of the Cali cartel. The OFAC, in coordination with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, is continuing to expand the list of SDNTs, including both organizations and individuals, as additional information is developed.

Effective February 28, 1997, OFAC issued the Narcotics Trafficking Sanctions Regulations (the "Regulations" or NTSR), 31 C.F.R. Part 536, to further implement my declaration of a national emergency and imposition of sanctions against significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia (62 *Fed. Reg.* 9959-68, March 5, 1997). A copy of the Regulations is attached to this report.

4. The OFAC has disseminated and routinely updated details of this program to the financial, securities, and international trade communities by both electronic and conventional media. In addition to bulletins to banking institutions via the Federal Reserve System and the Clearing House Interbank Payments System, individual notices were provided to all State and Federal regulatory agencies, automated clearinghouses, and State and independent banking associations across the country. OFAC contacted all major securities industry associations and regulators. It posted electronic notices on the Internet and over 10 computer bulletin boards and 2 fax-on-demand services, and provided the same material to the U.S. Em-

bassy in Bogota for distribution to U.S. companies operating in Colombia.

5. As of March 4, 1997, OFAC had issued five specific licenses pursuant to Executive Order 12978. These licenses were issued in accordance with established Treasury policy authorizing the completion of presanctions transactions and the provision of legal services to and payment of fees for representation of SDNTs in proceedings within the United States arising from the imposition of sanctions.

6. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from October 21, 1996, through April 20, 1997, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of the national emergency with respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers are estimated at approximately \$1.1 million. Personnel costs were largely centered in the Department of the Treasury (particularly in the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the Office of the General Counsel, and the U.S. Customs Service), the Department of Justice, and the Department of State.

7. Executive Order 12978 provides this Administration with a new tool for combating the actions of significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, and the unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm that they cause in the United States and abroad. The Order is designed to deny these traffickers the benefit of any assets subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and to prevent United States persons from engaging in any commercial dealings with them, their front companies, and their agents. Executive Order 12978 demonstrates the U.S. commitment to end the scourge that such traffickers have wrought upon society in the United States and abroad.

The magnitude and the dimension of the problem in Colombia—perhaps the most pivotal country of all in terms of the world's cocaine trade—is extremely grave. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against significant foreign narcotics traffickers and their violent and corrupting activities as long as these measures are appropriate, and will continue to report periodically to the Congress

on significant developments pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 13.

**Remarks Announcing Action on the Safe and Effective Use of Medications To Treat Children**

*August 13, 1997*

You know, one of the most important rules about being President is to never go on after the star of the show. *[Laughter]* I would like to thank all of you for being here today. The Vice President, the First Lady, and Secretary Shalala have spoken about what we're trying to do and acknowledged the work of many individuals and groups. But I want to thank Dr. David Kessler, who as the Vice President said, used to work at the FDA; Dr. Friedman, the Acting Commissioner of the FDA. I also want to thank Dr. Koop, who wrote us a letter in support yesterday. And Hillary mentioned our good friend Elizabeth Glaser. I got a wonderful letter today from her husband, Paul, about how much this would mean to their son, Jake. And so, all of you who have been in this situation, I thank you for helping this day come to pass. And I thank Regan Ralph for her eloquent speech under some duress. *[Laughter]* I thank her spouse for doing what I think is a noble duty there. *[Laughter]* And next time we'll let you give the speech, and the rest of us will handle Sam. *[Laughter]*

I'm glad Sam came up here today and showed us what childhood should be like. It's what kids that are 1½ year old should be doing, and they should be able to do it. They should be able to do it. And according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, more than 50 percent of the medicines that have proved helpful for children have not been adequately tested for children's use. That is not acceptable.

The executive action that I take today simply is designed to ensure that parents and

pediatricians have the safety information they need. Doctors have known for a long time that children respond differently than adults to many drugs. In cases—many cases, children can only tolerate vastly scaled-down doses. In some cases, their bodies simply haven't developed enough to take any dosage of a medicine that has been perfectly safe for adults.

Moreover, we still don't even have good information about medication for some of the most common childhood illnesses that Hillary mentioned, like asthma, allergic reactions, ear infections. And we certainly don't know enough about medications for treating life-threatening diseases.

Less than half the drugs used to help the estimated 12,000 children with HIV infection in our country have been tested for use in children. Information is especially sparse for children under 2, the time when the medication may be most needed.

Without clear guidance, pediatricians sometimes decide not to prescribe for children drugs used successfully by adults, and this means that the children may well be being deprived of what may be the very best treatment available. And as the Vice President said, the pediatrician's other alternative is to guess, with potentially grave consequences. Some time ago, for example, doctors gave infants small doses of a crucial antibiotic commonly used by adults, but it turned out that the infants were unable to clear the drug from their bodies and large amounts built up in their livers, and because of needed dosage studies which had not been done, 23 infants died.

The rule I announce today will put an end to this guesswork. It will require manufacturers of all medicines needed by children to study the drugs' effects on children. The results will then be displayed on drug labels to help pediatricians and other health care professionals make good decisions about how to treat their young patients. Groups representing patients, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and drug manufacturers all have indicated their willingness to help us implement this new rule, and we appreciate their willingness to do so.

I also want to applaud Senators Dodd and DeWine and Congressman Greenwood and